

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of April 13, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 3-6, 8-15, and 18-19 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hatakeyama (JP 09-330175).

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

The Hatakeyama Reference

Hatakeyama does show several features which the applicant had believed were available for patent protection when the present application was filed. However, the present application does set forth several improvements relative to Hatakeyama. The present claims have been refocused to two of these.

As best understood from the machine translation of the Hatakeyama reference, when a user places his/her hands in a typing rest position on a touch-sensitive screen, a keyboard is defined and displayed underneath the user's hands. The keyboard is a standard rectangular keyboard [0042], [0043], [0048], etc. The size and pitch (spacing) of the keys is adjustable to match the size of the user's hands [0085], [0087]. While typing, a virtual keyboard is displayed on the touch-sensitive screen. However, when the user removes the left and right hands from the screen, the virtual keyboard is no longer displayed [0102]. When reading e-mail, attachments or other displays can be displayed in the keyboard location. If the user returns the hands to the rest position, the keyboard is redisplayed either superimposed on the other display, or the other display scrolls upward to a position above the keyboard [0110]. The user designates a letter or character by applying a higher pressure to one of the designated key areas.

The Present Application

The present application discloses several improvements over the Hatakeyama system. First, rather than limiting the user to a standard rectangular

keyboard, the keyboard halves which are controlled by each hand can be angled and positioned to be tilted relative to each other as shown in Figure 3. The key configuration shown in Figure 3 is more natural for some typists, easier to use, and less tiring.

Second, the keyboard of the present application need not be displayed. The hand positions can be defined wherever the user positions his/her hands, which hand positions need not be in any conventional relationship or position and need not remain constant relative to each other. One reason why the present application provides such hand position flexibility is because the letter or keystroke is determined based on the relative position of the heavier force applied by the typing finger relative to the lighter forces of the other fingers of that hand that are in the rest position.

With this configuration, a typist can move one hand relative to the other during typing, including moving the hands apart, closer together, rotating them, and the like. This facilitates changing typing positions with changes in posture, with increasing fatigue, for individual comfort, and the like. For example, a user with a broken bone that is set in a cast that constrains arm movement may type with a keyboard portion that is in any orientation and position that is comfortable and permitted by the physical constraints of the cast.

The Claims Distinguish Patentably Over The References of Record

Claim 8 specifically provides for the virtual keyboard to have two groups of keys which are tilted relative to each other (note Figure 3 of the present application). By distinction, Hatakeyama defines a standard keyboard with the keys in straight lines [0042], [0043], [0048].

Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 8 and claims 3-6, 9, and 10 dependent therefrom** are not anticipated by Hatakeyama.

Dependent **claim 10** further calls for a stroke recognition means which recognizes a keystroke by analyzing relative position of a zone touched by the finger causing a higher force relative to the zones touched by the other fingers with a lower force, e.g., the fingers in the rest position. By contrast, Hatakeyama defines a keyboard and recognizes keystrokes based on high pressure in one of the predefined

keys of the virtual keyboard. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 10** is not anticipated by Hatakeyama.

Claim 11 calls for a key recognition means which is configured to recognize a keystroke by analyzing a relative position of the zone touched with higher force with respect to a position of at least one other zone touched with a lower force. By contrast, Hatakeyama determines keystrokes based on a higher pressure in one of the previously defined virtual keys. This is advantageous over Hatakeyama in that it permits the operator freedom to move one hand relative to the other to any comfortable position and to change that position even while typing is continuing. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 11 and claims 12-15 dependent therefrom** are not anticipated by Hatakeyama.

Claim 13 provides for correcting or updating the position of the reference key(s). This permits the operator to change hand positions during typing. Hatakeyama does not provide the advantage of enabling the user to change hand positions freely. Accordingly, it is further submitted that **claim 13** is not anticipated by Hatakeyama.

Claim 12 has been amended to resolve the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues raised by the Examiner.

Claim 18 has been placed in independent form. It is directed to a method in which a keystroke is recognized by analyzing a relative position of the zone touched with higher force with respect to a position of at least one other zone touched with a lower force. This step is again not shown by Hatakeyama and is advantageous over Hatakeyama in that it permits the user freedom of hand positions. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 18** is not anticipated by Hatakeyama.

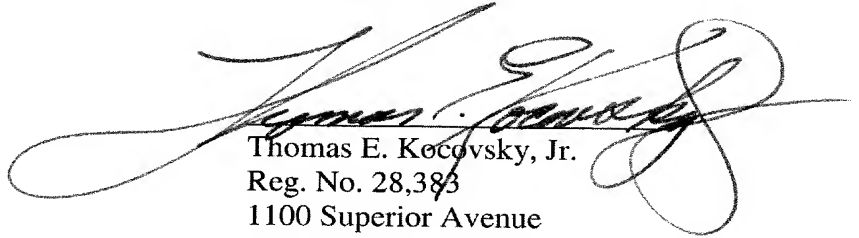
Claim 19 has been amended to use the language suggested by the Examiner and to depend from claim 18. With this amendment, it is submitted that **claim 19** meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101 as is not anticipated by Hatakeyama.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 3-6, 8-15, and 18-19 distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr., is written over the printed name and address.

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